

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2369

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5150

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR LOW AND ASST SEC MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL PARTIES CONTINUE TO MIX SIGNALS
ON ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

1. LATEST PUBLIC STANCES OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES
IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TOWARDS AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE
SHOW SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA ADAMANTLY AGAINST, SMITH APPROVING
WITH QUALIFICATION, AND CHIRAU AND CHIKEREMA FOR. THE LINES
SEEM TO BE HARDENING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PUBLIC STANCES OF THE INTERNAL RHODESIAN LEADERS
TOWARDS AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW
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SHARP DIVISIONS. MUZOREWA, WHO, IN HIS TALKS WITH STEVE
LOW AND JOHN GRAHAM HAS CONTINUED TO HOLD OUT AGAINST
A CONFERENCE, IS CONSISTENT IN THIS ATTITUDE PUBLICLY.
HIS LATEST REPORTED UTTERANCES CAME ON AUGUST 28,
WHEN PRESS ACCOUNTS SAID HE CALLED THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE
A "STAGE-MANAGED CHARADE" WHICH WOULD BE A "CORONATION
CEREMONY" FOR NKOMO. MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY ADDED "ALL THE

ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS HAVE IN FACT BEEN FACADES BEHIND WHICH LURKS A NOW PROVEN AND EVIL PLOT TO BY-PASS DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND TO IMPOSE A LEADER WHO WILL PERPETUATE BRITISH NEO-COLONIALISM."

3. MEANWHILE, PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT SITHOLE HAS PUBLICLY RECOMMITTED HIMSELF AGAINST THE CONFERENCE. AS REPORTED IN PRETORIA 5043, SITHOLE SEEMED TO BE BACK PEDALING LAST WEEKEND FROM HIS EARLIER MORE FLEXIBLE STAND. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF AUGUST 31 INDICATE A FURTHER HARDENING AS SITHOLE APPEARED CATEGORICALLY TO REJECT THE CONFERENCE AND INSTEAD CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT'S MAJORITY RULE ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE. HE SAID THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, INCLUDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "TERROR ALLIANCE", IS MEANT TO "WRECK THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT."

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, SMITH HIMSELF CONTINUES TO PUBLICLY KEEP THE IDEA OPEN, ALTHOUGH WITH QUALIFICATIONS (PRETORIA 4858 AND 4847). HIS LATEST STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT AS REPORTED IN THE AUGUST 31 PRESS, ASSERT THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE IN "BROAD TERMS." SMITH ALSO REPORTEDLY REITERATED TO A LONDON "DAILY TELEGRAPH" REPORTER THAT HE WAS WILLING TO ATTEND IF "SATISFIED IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE COUNTRY" AND SAID HE DETECTS "A LITTLE MORE REASON" FROM THE BRITISH, AMERICANS AND POSSIBLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE REMINDED THE REPORTER THAT THERE IS A "GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE IN WHAT POLITICIANS SAY IN PUBLIC AND WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT...AT A CONFERENCE TABLE." SMITH ALSO TOLD THE REPORTER THAT HE WOULD WELCOME NKOMO BACK IF NKOMO "CAME BACK IN THE CORRECT FRAME OF MIND...PREPARED TO WORK CONSTITUTIONALLY." IN ANOTHER ACCOUNT, SMITH REITERATED ONE OF HIS CONDITIONS WHEN HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT BY SAYING HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER INCORPORATING PF SOLDIERS IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID "THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THESE FORCES WILL BE DECIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT."

5. CHIRAU, WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE SMITH'S SURROGATE, HAS NOT CONTRADICTED OR BACKED DOWN FROM HIS STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE CONFERENCE IDEA (PRETORIA 4824). ADDED TO THIS IS A RECENT POSITIVE STATEMENT BY MUZOREWA'S LIEUTENANT, JAMES CHIKEREMA. ACCORDING TO THE RHODESIAN DAILY "ZIMBABWE TIMES", HE TOLD A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP ON AUGUST 29 THAT HE SUPPORTED A CONFERENCE AND

THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE REALITIES THAT ZIMBABWEAN
POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT.

6. COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM PRETORIA, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE NOW
APPEAR PUBLICLY TO BE ATTEMPTING TO FORECLOSE THE
OPTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREEING TO THE ALL
PARTIES MEETING. SITHOLE'S APPARENTLY HARDER POSITION IS
SIGNIFICANT BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR
IT. IT DOES SUGGEST THAT SITHOLE AND THE BISHOP MAY HAVE
MOVED CLOSER TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF A COMMON PERCEPTION
OF THE DISADVANTAGES FOR BOTH IN AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE
AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SCRAPPING THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT.
THEIR RECENT BACKING OF "D" NOTICES AGAINST THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT (PRETORIA 5109, 5090) APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER
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INDICATION OF A DETERMINATION TO PUSH THROUGH WITH THE
MARCH 3 ACCORD. YET THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MUZOREWA'S STANCE
IS UNDERMINED AND CLOUDED BY THE OPPOSING POSITION OF
HIS INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT LIEUTENANT CHIKEREMA.
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